



Runners from Aruba join The ING New York City Marathon

ORANJESTAD -- A group of runners from Aruba joined the famed NYC marathon this year, posting very respectable times. Among the runners, Dr. Patrick Haime, who finished the race in Central Park crossing the finish line clocking 4:12:08, Frank Dubbeld, 4:44:50, Doreen Kralick, 4:35:12, Peter de Hoop, 5:06:03, Manuel Nooijen, 3:27:12, Eugene Martis 4:26:30, Jurgen Van Schaijk, 3:56:28, John Cheng, 4:12:07, Hendrikus Koeman, 5:28:28, Lucienne Hof-Kalis, 4:26:18, Diana Wolhuis, 5:46:58, Wilfred Ras, 4:38:06, and Shariska Winterdal, 3:43:07.

The 'elite' members of the Aruba group of runners Jurgen Van Schaijk, Shariska Winterdal and Manuel "Mario" Nooijen, all posted times under four hours. Runners Johnny Cheng, Patrick Haime, Herry Koeman and Eugene Martis have participated in the NYC marathon, before. Those of the group that went to NY for the first time, for their first marathon, were Doreen Kralick, Frank Dubbeld, Wilfred Ras, Peter de Hoop, Lucienne Hof Kalis and Diana Wolhuis.

Continued on Page A7

Voters approve Arizona medical marijuana measure



PHOENIX – By a narrow margin, Arizona voters have given their OK to legalized medical marijuana for people with chronic or debilitating diseases.

The decision makes Arizona the 15th state to approve a medical marijuana law. California was the first in 1996, and 13 other states and Washington, D.C., have followed suit.

Proposition 203 won by just 4,341 votes out of more than 1.67 million ballots counted, according to final tallies Saturday.

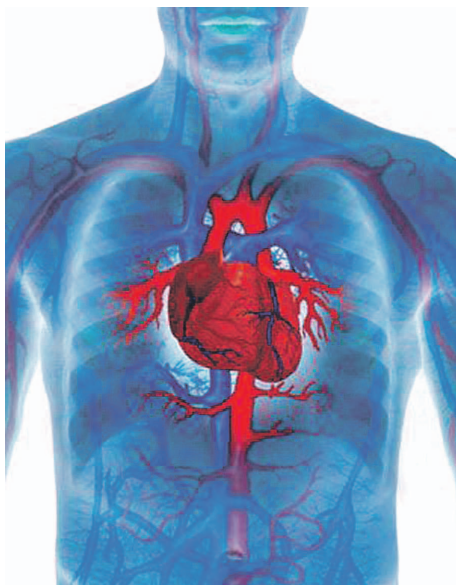
Approval came as somewhat of a surprise after the measure started out losing on Election Day by about 7,200 votes. The gap gradually narrowed until it surged ahead during Friday's count by more than 4,000 votes. Saturday's final count was 841,346 in favor of the measure and 837,005 opposed.

Continued on Page A3



Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi displays a placard that reads, "I also Love the People," to her supporters at the headquarters of her National League for Democracy Party Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, in Yangon, Myanmar. The country's democracy icon, freed from seven years of house arrest, told thousands of wildly cheering supporters Sunday that she would continue to fight for human rights and the rule of law in the military-ruled nation.

*Associated Press
Page B13*



Drug, device help treat heart failure

CHICAGO – Millions of people with mild or moderate heart failure got good news Sunday, with studies showing a Pfizer drug and a device from Medtronic can boost survival and cut trips to the hospital by patients having trouble breathing.

But another drug that's been used for nearly a decade Johnson & Johnson's Natreacor did little to help those with severe heart failure in a big study aimed at settling whether the drug raised the risk of death or kidney problems.

"They resolved the safety issue but in the meantime showed it was not very effective," and it's hard to tell now which patients should get the pricey

medicine, said Dr. Alfred Bove, a Temple University heart specialist and past president of the American College of Cardiology.

All three studies were presented Sunday at an American Heart Association conference in Chicago and are expected to have an immediate effect on care. More than 5 million Americans and 22 million people worldwide have heart failure. It develops when the heart muscle weakens over time and can no longer pump effectively, often because of damage from a heart attack. Fluid can back up into the lungs and leave people gasping for breath.

Inspira, made by New York-based Pfizer Inc., helps block water retention and is already used for advanced heart failure. In a study of more than 2,700 people with milder symptoms, it cut the risk of death or hospitalization by 37 percent. After nearly two years, less than 13 percent of those on Inspira had died of heart problems versus less than 16 percent of those given dummy pills. Only 19 people would need to be treated for a year to prevent one heart failure hospitalization, and 51 to prevent one death, said the study's leader, Dr. Faiez Zannad of Nancy

University in Nancy, France. "This has the potential of changing the guidelines," said Dr. Mariell Jessup, who heads the conference and the heart failure program at the University of Pennsylvania. Many doctors saw an alternative: wider use of an older relative of Inspira, spironolactone, a generic medicine that costs less than 20 cents a day, versus about \$133 a month for Inspira. Trying the older drug first and reserving Inspira for the few who suffer bad side effects is "a reasonable tactic," Dr. Paul Armstrong of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, wrote in an editorial published online with the study by the New England Journal of Medicine.

The other good news came from a test of an implanted heart device made by Minneapolis-based Medtronic Inc. Many people with severe heart failure already have defibrillators to zap their hearts if they suffer a rhythm problem. Newer combination devices also control how blood moves through the heart, improving pumping capacity.

"It's all electronics. You can almost build in an alarm clock and a Bluetooth device. You can put anything in those little boxes," but the issue is whether

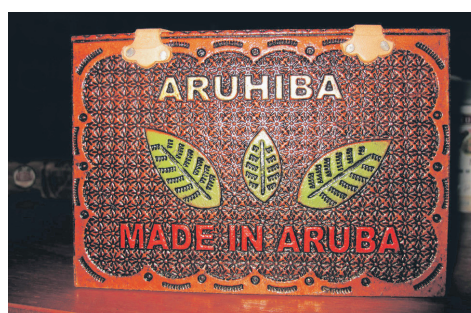
that is worth the extra cost, Bove said. Defibrillators cost \$20,000 to \$25,000; the combos are \$5,000 to \$7,000 more. The study tested them in 1,800 Canadian patients with mild to moderate heart failure. More than three years later, 40 percent of those with simple defibrillators had died or been hospitalized for heart failure versus 33 percent of those with combo devices, said Dr. Anthony Tang of the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada. Medtronic and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research paid for the study, and results were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine. The bad news came from a test of Natreacor, a drug that had meteoric sales after its approval in 2001 because it was the only medicine that seemed to help shortness of breath. One out of every six people hospitalized with heart failure were given Natreacor until it came under a cloud in 2005 when studies suggested it raised the risk of death and kidney problems. An independent panel recommended that its maker Scios Inc., a division of New Brunswick, N.J.-based Johnson & Johnson do a large study to resolve the issue. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

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MARIJUANA

Continued from Front Page

"We really believe that we have an opportunity to set an example to the rest of the country on what a good medical marijuana program looks like," said Andrew Myers, campaign manager for the Arizona Medical Marijuana Policy Project.

The Arizona measure will allow patients with diseases including cancer, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and any other "chronic or debilitating" disease that meets guidelines to buy 2 1/2 ounces of marijuana every two weeks or grow plants.

The patients must get a recommendation from their doctor and register with the Arizona Department of Health Services. The law allows for no more than 124 marijuana dispensaries in the state. After ballots are canvassed Nov. 29, the state has 120 days before the law goes into effect.

Backers of Proposition 203 have argued that thousands of patients faced "a terrible choice" of suffering with a serious or even terminal illness or going to the criminal market for pot. They collected more than 252,000 signatures to put the measure on the ballot nearly 100,000 more than required.

All Arizona's sheriff's and county prosecutors, the governor, attorney general and many other politicians came out against the measure.

Carolyn Short, chairwoman of Keep AZ Drug Free, the group that organized opposition to the initiative, said her group believes the law will increase crime around dispensary locations, lead to more people driving while impaired and eventually lead to legalized pot for everyone.

She noted that the major financial backer of the new measure, the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project, makes no bones about its ultimate goal: national legalization of marijuana for everyone. "All of the political leaders came out and warned Arizonans that this was going to have very dire effects on a number of levels," Short said after the measure pulled into the lead late on Friday. "I don't think that all Arizonans have heard those dire predictions."

Arizona voters overwhelmingly approved a medical marijuana law in 1996 and 1998, but it never went into effect because of problems with its wording. □

Driver in fatal Conn. crash sues victim's parents



HARTFORD, Conn. — A driver who's serving a manslaughter sentence for striking and killing a 14-year-old boy is suing the victim's parents, blaming them for their son's death because they allowed him to ride his bike in the street without a helmet.

Matthew Kenney's parents, Stephen and Joanne, sued 48-year-old driver David Weaving shortly after he was sentenced last year to 10 years in prison, accusing him in Waterbury Superior Court of negligence and seeking more than \$15,000 in damages.

Weaving, who has a history of drunken driving convictions, responded months later with a handwritten countersuit accusing the Kenneys of "contributory negligence." He's also seeking more than \$15,000 in damages, saying he's endured "great mental and emotional pain and suffering," wrongful conviction and imprisonment, and the loss of his "capacity to carry on in life's activities."

"It drags the pain on," said Joanne Kenney, a stay-at-home mom with two other children, ages 2 and 13. "It's a constant reminder. Enough is enough. Can you just leave us alone and serve your time?" Prisoners nationwide file tens of thousands of court actions a year on allegations ranging from wrongful convictions to poor jail conditions to civil rights violations, according to federal judiciary data. But lawyers and victim advocates say it's not often that convicted criminals sue victims and their families.

Prosecutors say Weaving was recklessly passing another car at about 83 mph in a 45-mph

zone when his car hit Matthew Kenney on Route 69 in the Waterbury suburb of Prospect on April 27, 2007. A jury convicted him in December 2008 of manslaughter and other crimes.

Weaving has five drunken driving arrests since the late 1990s on his record, four of which resulted in convictions. He was not charged with drunken driving in the Kenney case.

The Kenneys say Weaving's license should have been permanently revoked in 1999 under state law because of the multiple convictions. They're seeking permission from the state claims commissioner to sue the Department of Motor Vehicles and its commissioner, Robert Ward.

The department has acknowledged it made a mistake in not revoking Weaving's license and said it has taken steps to prevent similar problems.

Matthew, a well-liked seventh-grader who played several sports, suffered severe head and internal injuries, broken bones and lacerations. He was declared brain dead the next day. Weaving insists he was driving the speed limit and wasn't acting recklessly when he passed another car in a legal passing zone and Matthew suddenly appeared in the road around dusk in wet, foggy conditions. He alleges Matthew and some friends were jumping their bikes off a ramp at the end of a friend's driveway and landing in the middle of the two-lane road.

In his lawsuit, Weaving wrote that had the Kenneys "complied with the responsibilities of a parent

and guardian and the laws of this state and not allowed their son to ride his bicycle without a helmet and to play out in the middle of Rt. 69 ... this incident and Matthew's death would not have happened."

Joanne Kenney, 42, calls Weaving's claims "unbelievable." While she and her husband are paying an undisclosed amount of attorney's fees, Weaving is filing his claims for free because he's considered indigent; a judge has waived \$500 in fees so far. "I just think it's crazy that they have the ability to do this behind bars," she said. "I think inmates have too many rights. They're the ones who committed the crimes, not us. And we're the ones who suffer more."

The federal government and

several states, not including Connecticut, have laws and regulations requiring inmates to pay lawsuit fees as part of efforts to deter frivolous and malicious lawsuits.

Perpetrators don't often sue victims, said Jeff Dion, director of the nonprofit National Crime Victim Bar Association. Its database shows about 485 cases of perpetrators suing victims out of more than 12,000 civil cases dating to the 1980s, he said.

Perpetrators who sue often do so in an attempt to get victims and their families to give up on their lawsuits, Dion said. They generally lose their cases.

"It can be very distressing to victims' families and make them say, 'I can't deal with this,'" Dion said. □

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Women with high job stress face heart risks



CHICAGO — Working women are equal to men in a way they'll wish they weren't. Female workers with stressful jobs were more likely than women with less job strain to suffer a heart attack or a stroke or to have clogged arteries, a big federally funded study found.

Worrying about losing a job can raise heart risks, too, researchers found.

The results seem sure to resonate in a weak economy with plenty of stress about jobs — or lack of them. The mere fact this study was done is a sign of the times: Past studies focused on men, the traditional breadwinners, and found that higher job stress raised heart risks. This is the longest major one to look at stress in women, who now make up nearly half of the workforce.

"The reality is these women don't have the same kind of jobs as men" and often lack authority or control over their work, said Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum, director of the Women and Heart Disease program at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. "It's not just going to work, it's what happens when you get there."

Steinbaum had no role in the study, which was led by Dr. Michelle Albert, a cardiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Results were reported Sunday at an American Heart Association conference in Chicago.

The research involved 17,415 participants in the Women's Health Study, a long-running trial looking at heart disease and cancer prevention. The women were healthy, 57 years old on average, and had worked full or part-time when the study began in 1999.

Most were health professionals, "anything from being a nurse's aide all the way to a Ph.D.," Albert said. They filled out surveys about their jobs, rating statements like "My job requires working very fast," and "I am free from competing demands that others make."

Researchers put them in four

groups based on stress they reported and looked 10 years later to see how they fared.

Women with demanding jobs and little control over how to do them were nearly twice as likely to have suffered a heart attack as women with less demanding jobs and more control. The high-stress group had a 40 percent greater overall risk of heart problems, including heart attacks, strokes or clogged arteries needing bypass surgery or an artery-opening angioplasty procedure.

Women worried about losing their jobs had higher blood pressure, cholesterol and body weight.

Stress can harm by releasing "fight or flight" hormones, spurring inflammation and raising blood pressure, Steinbaum said.

It did a number on Jackie Morgan, 46, a suburban Boston woman who is on her second medical leave of absence in two years from a teleconference center, where she managed 16 operators running corporate conference calls.

"Dropped calls? Somebody's line not open? You're running from operator to operator to handle problems that occur during the call," she explained. "It's very stressful. When I tell people about it, they look at me like

I have three heads. I feel like I should have Rollerblades on."

Her heart problems started in the summer of 2008, with a crush of calls related to auto company bailouts.

"I just started getting chest pains" and collapsed while out walking one night, she said. Tests found no signs of heart disease, but doctors gave her nitroglycerin pills, which can relieve chest tightness due to constricted heart arteries.

"Sure enough, when the pain came again a few other times I took the nitro and boom, the pain was gone," Morgan said.

Doctors should ask about stress along with traditional heart risk factors like smoking and blood pressure, Albert said. "We need to start taking that seriously."

She has these tips for workers:

Exercise. It clears the mind, lifts the mood and curbs other heart risks, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol.

Limit bringing work home. Get a life. Do things with friends, whether they're folks you work with or not. aBuild "me time" into every day. "It can be as little as 10 or 15 minutes to meditate, pray or take a walk," Albert said. □

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Former VA doctor picks up pieces after prosecution

LEBANON, N.H. — For years, Dr. William Weeks' name commanded respect. He was a prominent psychiatrist, a nationally known expert on rural health care, a medical professor at Dartmouth College, a father of six who led the school board in his New Hampshire town, the treasurer of his church.

Then inspectors began looking into a series of contracts drawn up by Weeks in his capacity as a doctor at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, setting off events that led to the loss of his job, a criminal trial ending in his acquittal and the federal government's agreement to pay him up to \$800,000 to settle some of his civil claims stemming from the ordeal.

But don't say he won. Weeks, who attempted suicide three times as he fought the charges, ran up a six-figure legal bill, was denied a promotion he had earned and saw his marriage break up under the strain.

Weeks, 47, has been cleared. His name may never be.

"It's just really unfortunate that these things have come to pass to someone who was absolutely not deserving of any of it," said Hilda Heady, a national advocate in the field

of rural health care who's known him for years. "I found it incredible that anyone would question his ethics and his work."

Federal prosecutors say they pursued the case in good faith and lost it, while the VA agreed to the payout to settle his claims without admitting wrongdoing.

Like other doctors at the VA's hospital in White River Junction, Vt., Weeks an 18-year VA employee had a faculty appointment to nearby Dartmouth, where he was an associate professor.

His writings in medical journal articles some of which took the view that the VA could better serve its rural veterans with non-VA providers won him prestige in the medical community but sometimes a chilly reception within the VA.

In 2004, a routine audit led to scrutiny of five Weeks-designed contracts totaling \$1.5 million. Finally, in 2009, federal prosecutors working with the VA's Office of the Inspector General charged him with five misdemeanor counts of violating conflict-of-interest provisions.

They also filed a companion lawsuit. Both alleged that Weeks installed himself at

both ends of the contracts and funneled leftover money from research contracts into an expense account at Dartmouth that he planned to use to help fund a sabbatical.

Weeks, who made \$220,000 a year, contended that his research and spending was above board, and that he followed the policies of Dartmouth and the VA.

In April, a jury in U.S. District Court cleared him of all charges after an eight-day trial. Last month, he came to terms on settlement of a lawsuit he had filed against

the VA alleging invasion of privacy, wrongful suspension and due-process violations.

Under it, he was reinstated to his VA job but agreed to resign Dec. 31, a condition sought by the VA.

"I can't go into the VA's personnel decision-making," said Seth Aframe, a federal prosecutor in New Hampshire who represented the VA in settlement talks. The settlement also included a \$47,500 payment by Weeks to prosecutors to settle civil claims against Weeks. □



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Mother of disabled girl crushed by news of death

HICKORY, N.C. – The biological mother of the disabled girl whose remains were found in North Carolina told a television station Sunday that she has been devastated by her daughter's death but buoyed by support from the community where the 10-year-old lived.

"Still hurt, still crushed," Emily Dietrich told the Australia-based Seven Network on Sunday. Dietrich lives in Australia where her daughter, Zahra Baker, lived until her father moved to the U.S. and is now in Hickory, N.C. That's the town where Zahra lived with her father and stepmother before she was reported missing more than a month ago.

"It didn't make a difference trying to prepare myself," Dietrich said. "It didn't make a difference to anybody. As hard as it was to hear the news they were telling me, it was just as hard to watch them cry while they told me and apologized to me. All they wanted was to find her and bring her back alive."

Hickory police said Friday they found a bone that matches DNA from Zahra, whose cancer had forced her to use a prosthetic leg and hearing aids. It was found in an area near where the family lived until mid-September. Zahra's stepmother, Elisa Baker, is jailed on unrelated

charges.

Police say Elisa Baker led investigators to the bone and another area where police found remains they believe are Zahra's. No one has been charged in the girl's death.

Dietrich, from Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, said she is trying to keep positive thoughts about the girl's father, 33-year-old Adam Baker, who is free on bail after being arrested on charges unrelated to Zahra's disappearance.

"I have to take a step back and think of the possibility that maybe Adam wasn't involved and maybe he is hurting as well," Dietrich said. Dietrich has said she suffered postnatal depression after Zahra's birth and handed over custody to Adam Baker. Later, though, she decided she wanted to be in the girl's life and spent years trying to track the pair.

"I can't explain the anger, the hurt," she said. "He had no right to do any of it, to keep her from me. She said she discovered Zahra was living in the U.S. just three days before she was reported missing on Oct. 9.

She hadn't seen her daughter since Zahra was 8 months old. "I never got to say goodbye," she said. "I never even got to say hello." □



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Runners from Aruba join The ING New York City Marathon



Continued from Front Page

Generally speaking, all group members report having a fantastic time in NY. The Aruba team shirt listed their respective names as well as the name Aruba, so there were a lot of people from the crowd calling out encouragements, calling them by name, as well as offering happy comments about the island. One person yelled out that it is where they want to go, and considering that it was cold that day, the Aruba Team members

understood, enduring the long, cold wait to start -- some of the runners couldn't even get into their assigned wave and had to shiver through extra 40 minutes to wait to join the next wave of runners. And the bottleneck experienced in trying to get out of the Central Park after completing the run was rather difficult, but the actual marathon was great. Experiencing the energy of New York's different neighborhoods, the support of the crowd, the live music and the act of running along, in mass, with 41,999 other runners was unforgettable.

Doreen Kralick reports she practiced for the event by running the marathon distance in the Ironman Lake Placid in July, and that the majority of group members don't plan to slow down after the marathon -- some of them will participate in the off-road triathlon in Aruba at the end of this month and others will travel again to Florida in January to participate in the half marathon there. Peter de Hoop, shares that it was his first marathon and he really enjoyed the folks along the road, the music, and the ambiance, and

that he will continue to run, having already signed up for the Paris marathon -- it's a great way to see the city, he jokes. Peter recalls that to get to 13.1 miles was fairly easy, and that he did so in 2 hours however, after mile 18 he had to slow down and walk a mile or two. He started running again when he was overtaken by a runner dressed as a rhinoceros, participating on behalf of some environmental Save the Rhino group. "I did not want to be beat by the Rhino," he says, "so I picked up the pace." Having trained for just 3 weeks her recovered well and quickly, he informs Shariska Winterdal says that



the most memorable moments were when all those people along the road were cheering and screaming: ARUBA, GO ARUBA, followed by GO Shariska. When she heard it, she felt a surge of energy and confidence, that she would reach her goal and kept going. The cheers will stay with her forever, she admits. Overall, Shariska ran a challenge-free race, except for the cold, especially on the bridges, as it grew chillier and chillier; she sometimes didn't feel her legs, she shares.

Yet the organization deserves compliments for putting on such a big event for so many people from around the globe with more that 44,000 people on the start line, it had to be a monumental effort, Shariska concludes.

While pleased with her result, after all that training and the weekend sacrifices of having to wake up at 3 or 4 am to go run, she wants to thank her sons, parents, family members, colleagues at Banco di Caribe, and friends, all those who supported her and believed in her during weeks of trainings, "I really want to



do this NYC marathon once again," she states. The official website of the NYC marathon has announced

that the registration for the ING New York City Marathon 2011 is open, we are confident Aruban are signing up. □



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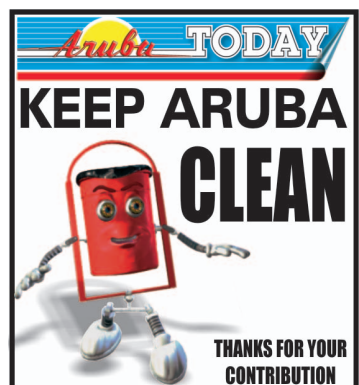


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Renaissance Casinos Team of the Third Quarter Recognized



ORANJESTAD – Renaissance Casino employee Richard Haynes, and Casino supervisor Sheyenne de Kort won top professional recognitions as members of the Team of the Quarter, during a luncheon event at the Renaissance Convention Centre.

Their colleagues Edwin Vingal, Victor de Cuba, Rose Maduro, Gwendelyn Hereira, Giovanni Ras and Angelo Maduro shared the stage as nominees with fellow-

Supervisor Andres Dirksz. Casino executive Rosindo Koolman thanked the winners for their professional conduct and congratulated them on their career achievements on behalf of the casino management.

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Nominees for the quarterly awards were introduced to their peers via individual videos, shot on location, jointly presenting the top achievers of the two casinos and the two resorts to those who attended the festive luncheon event emceed by Queta Werleman. ☐



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ORANJESTAD – Fans welcomed Marisela back to Aruba with open arms. The famed songstress left Aruba for Europe this summer and dedicated her time to the creative process of a CD with her own original materials. While the rough-cut is ready, she will return to the Netherlands after New Year

to complete her mission, polish and mix the sound-track professionally. While back on the island Marisela did not waste any time and returned to the business of entertaining her fans. Her plane landed here at 11 pm on Friday, delayed due to weather conditions, thirty minutes later she was on stage, at Garufa Ultra Lounge, in top form, playing to a full house.



Marisela back in town



Marisela returns to Garufa Ultra Lounge on November 19th for a performance with



Mario Chow her loyal band member and rumor has it she will be at Garufa Ultra Lounge

on New Year's Eve for a fantastic party welcoming 2011. □



At El Gaucho Argentine Grill

Good Wine Paired with Fantastic Food



ORANJESTAD – The dining room staff at El Gaucho Argentine Grill recently studied the careful pairing of food & wine, prepared to make educated recommendations to their guests. The pairing was conducted by Arion Wine Company instructor Govert vd Hout and focused on six popular selections by Kendall

Jackson, all Vintner's Reserve, the Riesling, the Sauvignon Blanc, the Chardonnay, the Pino Noir and the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vd Hout picked three quality whites and three excellent reds to pair different food types with, relying on the restaurant waiters for tasting notes and feedback.

Orion Wine Company, he says, appreciates the increased interest in wine and often hosts tastings and seminars to

further the knowledge of wine pairing in Aruba's premier eateries.

Pictured here the slow and infinitely pleasant process of uncorking and then sipping selections which perfectly complement El Gaucho's fine seafood dishes and steak specialties.

Patrons have been enjoying unforgettable evenings savoring the best and biggest steaks at Aruba's first Argentinean restaurant, opened 33 years ago, in the heart of town.

The friendly staff has been serving the finest Argentinean meats grilled to patron's preferences to the music of strolling guitarists.

Some of the most popular dishes include world-famous Gaucho steak – 16 ounces of tender, juicy Argentinean beef, or the award-winning rib-eye, T-bone, Argentinean mixed grill, rack of lamb, and local seafood recipes. Kids are invited to pick from a special menu, and retired to the game room, once they are done eating. □



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La Cabana's Song Festival applauds its Winners



EAGLE BEACH – Mathilde and Alberto Groeneveld Benito, Marouschka Violenus, received the loudest applause



and were enthusiastically endorsed by both judges and audiences for category A, as they placed in the top three at the end of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club's recent song festival.

For category B the three top finalists were Orlando Bolivar, Roland Croes, and Maria Maduro.

The perfectly organized song festival, with tickets sponsored by Interprint, entertained the associates of La Cabana Beach & Racquet for the 5th annual time. Organized in great detail by the Social Committee the festival awarded seven attractive trophies to its

winners, all generously sponsored by Professional Pest Control, who has been supporting the festival since its first edition.

Accompanied by the Cassinger Sweet Band, the festival was judged by six professional jury members, Farita Luidens, Papito

Raphael, Harlan Verner, John Francis Jacobs, Maybelline Arends & maestro Eduardo Maya, with an assistant. Jury members gave up their free time to contribute to the level of professionalism and showmanship, as they selected the winners from among 18 talented participants.

The evening was filled with excellent music, raffles and door prizes and included one big surprise, prepared by Executive Committee members, Managers & Supervisors supported by their children, who presenting the annual Management Show, starring the unforgettable This Time for Africa, by Shakira, also known as Jessica Franken, and the Waka Waka group, at the beginning of the second half.

The festival closed with the performance of the Sparkling Singers. □

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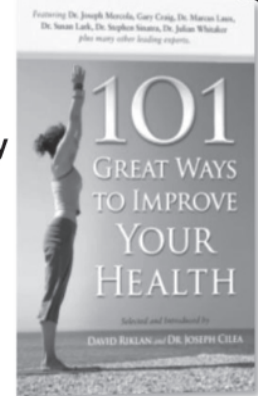
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

Guinea candidate says he will not accept results

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) —

Less than 24 hours before Guinea's election commission was due to release results from a crucial presidential election, one of the candidates said he would not accept the outcome because two contested counties had been included in the total, setting the stage for a violent showdown.

Cellou Dalein Diallo, who is from the Peul ethnic group, held a press conference Sunday to say he would refuse the results if the country's election commission included the northern counties of Kouroussa and Siguiri in the final tally — counties the head of the commission has said he was not authorized to invalidate.

The two provinces were swept by ethnic riots targeting the Peul in the days before the Nov. 7 ballot. Diallo claims his constituents were too intimidated to vote, and that in many polling stations, his party could not find anyone



Guinean police take position outside the Independent Election Commission building in Conakry, Guinea, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, after the representative of presidential candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo suspended his participation in the vote tallying process. The optimism and pride that marked Guinea's first democratic election has faded even before the votes are tallied, as early results show the two candidates, Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde, are neck-and-neck, prompting both sides to accuse the other of fraud and heightening tension in a nation that has never chosen its leader freely.

Associated Press

to represent them and were instead represented by their opponent.

Earlier in the day, the representative of Diallo's party on the election commission walked out over the same issue. National Independent Electoral Commission

President Siaka Sangare told reporters soon after Diallo's press conference that electoral law does not allow him to annul the provinces without proof of fraud, and he was not in a position to investigate Diallo's claim of intimidation. Sangare said, however, that

the commission is carefully examining cases where there is tangible evidence of malfeasance.

Partial results released so far indicate a tight race, with Diallo leading by a hair. Only 23,773 votes separate him from rival Alpha Conde after

1.9 million ballots had been counted, representing over half the electorate.

Diallo's comments are bound to enflame the tension at the heart of the vote, which has been divided along ethnic lines. As he was holding a news conference on the third floor of his party's office, his supporters began to congregate at the traffic circles of a major highway leading out of the capital. A rumor quickly spread that they were going to try to march on the headquarters of the election commission, located miles away.

Soon, the street leading to the commission was blocked by trucks full of security forces. The Governor of Conakry Sekou Camara arrived to inspect the building, and announced that anyone who tried to demonstrate would be punished.

"Their goal is to come and make trouble," he said. "No one will be allowed to sow chaos in our country."

Last weekend's vote is considered the country's first democratic election, marking the only time in Guinea's 52 years since independence that the outcome has not been predetermined.

The nation of 10 million on Africa's western coast was a one-party state until the 1990s and has been ruled by military strongmen for the past 26 years. The most recent leader of the military junta was forced into exile after his men carried out a horrific massacre last year, prompting his No. 2 to agree to hand over power to civilians.

International observers say the recent poll was credible overall, even though some irregularities were noted. □



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Myanmar's Suu Kyi, newly free, calls for talks

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Democracy heroine Aung San Suu Kyi took her first steps back into Myanmar's political minefield Sunday, vowing to press ahead in her decades-long fight for democracy while also calling for compromise with other political parties and the ruling junta.

Suu Kyi, who was freed from house arrest Saturday amid a divided political landscape and days after widely criticized elections, made clear she faces a precarious position: maneuvering between the expectations of the country's pro-democracy movement and the realities of dealing with a clique of secretive generals who have kept her locked up for much of the past two decades.

"I've always believed in compromise," the Nobel Peace laureate told reporters in the dilapidated offices of her party, the National League for Democracy, with its rough concrete floor and battered wooden furniture. "I am for national reconciliation. I am for dialogue.

Whatever authority I have, I will use it to that end ... I hope the people will support me."

This Southeast Asian nation, once known as Burma, has been ruled by the military since 1962, leaving it isolated from much of the international community and battered by poverty. The junta has an abysmal human rights record, holding thousands of political prisoners and waging brutal military campaigns against ethnic minorities.

In recent years, though, it has also become an increasingly important regional trading hub, and its natural gas reserves and hydroelectric possibilities have brought it close to energy-hungry China and India.

Earlier Sunday, Suu Kyi spoke to a rapturous crowd of as many as 10,000 people who jammed the street in

front of the office. While the speech was technically illegal — any gathering of more than a handful of people needs government permission in Myanmar — the authorities made no arrests.

Deeply charismatic, the 65-year-old Suu Kyi is by far the country's most popular politician, a popularity the junta clearly fears. Dozens of secret police officers were on hand Sunday to record her comments and photograph those in attendance.

"I believe in human rights and I believe in the rule of law. I will always fight for these things," she told the crowd. "I want to work with all democratic forces and I need the support of the people."

But she also urged her followers to work for national reconciliation.

"If we want to get what we want, we have to do it in the right way; otherwise we will not achieve our goal however noble or correct it may be," she cautioned.

Later, Suu Kyi told reporters her message to junta leader Gen. Than Shwe was, "Let's speak to each other directly." The two last met in secret talks in 2002 at the encouragement of the United Nations.

If her comments might appear surprisingly measured for a woman who has become an international symbol of democratic reform, she has long said she was willing to negotiate, even with the junta.

The top-ranking U.S. diplomat in Myanmar, Charge d'Affaires Larry Dinger, was among a group of diplomats who met her Sunday and also met her while she was under house arrest.

"She's made clear to us that she's a pragmatic politician who wants to find pragmatic solutions to this country's problems," he said.

Energized as Suu Kyi's supporters are, she faces a



Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi gestures during her first press conference since her release from house arrest in Yangon, Myanmar, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

military determined to cling to the power it has wielded for decades, and any collision between the two could well land Suu Kyi right back from where she emerged this weekend — house arrest and isolation.

"It could be a little bit of a cat and mouse game," said Trevor Wilson, former Australian ambassador to Myanmar and now a visiting fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra.

"The regime may wait for her to make a tactical error and crack down on her again."

Suu Kyi's most recent term kept her under house arrest for seven years, though she has been jailed or under house arrest for more than 15 of the last 21 years.

In that time, she was unable to see her husband, the British scholar Michael Aris, before he died of cancer, and has never met her grandchildren. She has not seen her two sons for almost 10 years.

But she insisted Sunday her time in detention — in a crumbling lakeside family villa where she had a small staff — was far easier than most prisoners here face. Human rights groups say the government holds more than

2,200 political prisoners.

"Honestly, throughout these years of detention, they have treated me well. But they have not acted according to the rule of law, and that I will always fight against," she told reporters.

She said she "kept myself pretty much on an even keel" during her detention, but added for years she had only the radio for company. "I'd like to listen to human voices," she said.

Her release came just days after an election that was swept by the ruling junta's proxy political party and decried by Western nations as a sham designed to perpetuate authoritarian control. The leading opposition party was a splinter from Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, was officially disbanded for refusing to register for the polls.

Many observers have questioned whether her release was timed by the junta to distract the world's attention from the Nov. 7 polls.

Suu Kyi said her party would help probe allegations of voting fraud.

Myanmar's last elections in 1990 were won overwhelmingly by the National League for

Democracy, but the military refused to hand over power and instead clamped down on opponents.

Suu Kyi took up the democracy struggle in 1988, as mass demonstrations were breaking out against 25 years of military rule. She was quickly thrust into a leadership role, mainly because she was the daughter of the country's most famous modern political hero, Aung San, who led the country to the eve of independence from Britain before his assassination by political rivals in 1947.

She rode out the military's bloody suppression of street demonstrations to help found the NLD. Her defiance gained her fame and honor, most notably the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

That defiance and the immense personal costs she has paid — held in detention, cut off from her family — has given Suu Kyi's followers a near-mystical belief in her abilities.

"She has sacrificed her family to stand for truth and justice," said Taw Hla Kyi, an 80-year-old woman standing in the crowd Sunday. "If we all work together with Suu Kyi, the generals will all run away." □

Plan for Mideast talks bets on quick border deal

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Washington's new proposal for reviving Mideast talks, presented Sunday to Israel's Cabinet, rests on the bold expectation that Israelis and Palestinians will be able to sketch a border between them in three months. That's the period the plan sets aside for a one-time extension of a ban on new construction in West Bank settlements.

The proposal was worked out in a seven-hour meeting last week in New York between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. U.S. officials said Netanyahu told the administration that he supports the plan and will try to win approval from his Cabinet.

But 90 days seems to be very short time to achieve what Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have failed to do in nearly two decades of intermittent talks, particularly since the current gaps between



A Palestinian man works on a construction site in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim, near Jerusalem, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. Israel's prime minister briefed his Cabinet Sunday on a package of security and diplomatic incentives the U.S. has proposed to entice Israel to renew limits on settlement construction and revive moribund peace talks with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are much wider than those in previous rounds.

The "borders first" approach could help defuse the dispute over Israeli settlement

expansion on war-won land, which derailed negotiations just three weeks after they were launched in Washington in early September.

A border deal, even in rough outlines, could delineate

which areas Israel could expect to keep in a final peace deal and where it would thus be free to keep building homes for Jews.

But it's a risky strategy. The Palestinians have said they will not negotiate without a settlement curb. If three months of talks end without real progress on borders and there's no prospect of extending the freeze, U.S. mediation would appear in grave jeopardy.

Yet the Obama administration believes it's the best way forward as it thinks the gaps on territory are not insurmountable, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the delicacy of the diplomacy. The administration believes that enough progress can be made on borders to keep the Palestinians invested in the talks, even if no final border deal is reached in three months.

Under the U.S. plan, Netanyahu would agree to a 90-day ban on housing starts in West Bank settlements, but not in east Jerusalem, the Palestinians' hoped-for capital.

Obama praised Netanyahu for considering another slowdown. "I commend Prime Minister Netanyahu for taking, I think, a very

constructive step," he said. "It's not easy for him to do, but I think it's a signal that he is serious," he told reporters on his plane heading home to Washington from Asia.

A previous 10-month moratorium in the West Bank expired Sept. 26, and Israeli settlers have since resumed construction at an accelerated pace, all but making up for past restrictions, according to new figures released Sunday by the Israeli settlement watchdog Peace Now. Lawmakers and Cabinet ministers gave conflicting accounts on whether the new building curb would be retroactive.

In exchange for renewed building restrictions, the White House would pledge to ask Congress to sell Israel 20 stealth fighter jets for \$3 billion, Cabinet Minister Yuli Edelstein told the Associated Press. Washington also pledged to use its veto to quash perceived anti-Israeli resolutions at the U.N. over the coming year and to reach a security agreement with Israel as part of a final deal, the minister said.

In Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu portrayed the deal in a positive light, Edelstein said. Another Cabinet member, Avishay Braverman from the centrist Labor party, said he expected Netanyahu to win approval if he pushes hard. A vote in Netanyahu's Security Cabinet, a smaller group of senior ministers, could take place on Wednesday, officials said. Edelstein said any vote would likely be close. Netanyahu himself said he still had conditions that needed to be fulfilled before he could bring it to a vote. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, opposition was quickly mounting among coalition hard-liners who warned that Netanyahu is walking into a U.S. trap.

"In those three months, there will be heavy pressure on Israel ... to reach final agreement on borders," Vice Premier Silvan Shalom, a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, told Israel Army Radio. □

Floods claim two lives in Belgium

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities on Sunday called in the army to assist with emergency evacuations after severe flooding killed two people in the southwestern Hainot province.

A 72-year-old woman drowned overnight near Beaumont after her husband lost control of their vehicle, Lt. Fabrice Pierart of the local firefighters told RTL television. A second victim, who was on his way home, was found just meters away, Pierart said.

"This is a catastrophe for our region," the mayor of Beaumont, Charles Dupuis, told RTL.

A woman was missing after being carried away by the water, according to authorities in the town of Lessines.

Officials described the flooding as the worst in 50 years. The national weather service said that in two days

Belgium absorbed as much rainfall as it normally gets in a month.

Rivers and creeks overflowed in western and central Belgium causing basements and streets to flood in scores of towns and cities. Rail traffic was seriously interrupted Sunday morning, but returned slowly to normal in the afternoon.

Local authorities called in the army and civil protection to reinforce firefighters who had been working overnight. Firefighters were handing out bags of sand in the affected towns and villages, hoping to keep the water at bay.

The situation appeared particularly serious in the Brabant region, just outside Brussels, and Hainaut province, where Beaumont and Lessines are located.

In Tubize, a town in the French-speaking part of Brabant, soldiers had to



A woman pours water out of her flooded house, in Geraardsbergen, Belgium, Sunday Nov. 14, 2010. Several rivers burst their banks due to heavy rain, flooding several towns and villages in Belgium.

evacuate a hospital. Marie-Jose Laby, the province's governor, said more rain was forecast, potentially further deteriorating the situation.

"The priority is to bring the people to safety," she told RTL. Prime Minister Yves Leterme said there was no need to declare a national emergency but said his government was following the situation closely. □

Nicaragua irks Mexico, Costa Rica with drug talk

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Recriminations from a border dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica rippled throughout the region Sunday as Mexico and Costa Rica hotly denied Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's suggestion that drug-trafficking interests were behind a regional vote on the issue that didn't go his way. The Mexican Foreign Relations Department said in a statement that it sent a diplomatic letter of protest to Nicaragua over what it calls "unfounded and unjustified accusations." Its counterpart in Costa Rica accused Ortega of "recklessly (launching) accusations about drug trafficking against various Latin American nations in his desire to distract his people from the overwhelming defeat suffered" in the Organization of American States. In a statement, Costa Rica's Foreign Relations Department urged Nicaraguan authorities "to use common sense and avoid actions that could aggravate the situation." Costa Rica and Nicaragua are fighting over a disputed patch of terrain about the size of Liechtenstein along the San Juan River that forms a part of their border. Nicaragua sent troops to the area last month — angering Costa Rica, which called the deployment an "invasion." The permanent council of the OAS approved a resolution Friday calling for Nicaragua to withdraw its forces and urging the two countries to continue talks on the issue. The measure passed by a 22-2 vote with Nicaragua joined in opposition only by Venezuela, whose president, Hugo Chavez, is a strong Ortega ally. In a speech Saturday, Ortega called the vote

"manipulated, trickery, deceitful and a conspiracy." He said Nicaragua deployed the soldiers to fight drug smuggling and suggested that the OAS resolution was a response from governments supposedly influenced by the drug trade.

He specifically mentioned Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Honduras and Guatemala, although 15 other nations also voted in favor of the resolution. "Nations infested by drug trafficking made a common front," Ortega said. "Drug traffickers are directing Costa Rican policy. That has to worry us."

He said Nicaragua is considering leaving the regional body.

The Mexican government rejected Ortega's accusations, noting the resolution's near-universal support in the region and calling its position "absolutely congruent."

"By taking a stance that tries to justify his disrespect for the majority's will for peace and understanding agreed upon Friday by the Organization of American States, President Ortega disrespects ... nations from this hemisphere that are making enormous efforts to fight drug trafficking," Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry said.

The country had asked the OAS to tell Nicaragua to stop dredging in the San Juan that it says is causing environmental damage, and to remove about 50 Nicaraguan soldiers from the zone.

Costa Rica, which does not have an army, has sent in about 70 police officers stationed in Barra de Colorado, a town near the disputed area.

Nicaragua claims the land as its own and has said it will not withdraw the troops. □



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega, left, speaks during a press conference while the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, OAS, Jose Miguel Insulza gestures in Managua, Nicaragua, Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010. Insulza is in Nicaragua to help mediate the dispute related to the dredging of the San Juan River at the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Associated Press



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MOTOR SPORTS



Carl Edwards does a flip after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Edwards wins while Hamlin's big lead is wiped out

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Carl Edwards marked the end of a 70-race losing streak by climbing into the grandstands at Phoenix International Raceway for a raucous celebration with the fans.

Roughly 50 feet away, Denny Hamlin sat in silence on the pit road wall, wondering how his ironclad grip on the Sprint Cup had been pried apart by fuel strategy.

"It's tough to not be happy having the point lead going into the last race. But we were sitting pretty," Hamlin said.

He was in prime position to take a comfortable lead into next week's season finale by dominating Sunday's race at Phoenix.

He led a race-high 190 laps and had four-time defending champion Jimmie Johnson in trouble for much of the afternoon.

Continued on Page B3

WINNING STREAK!



Buffalo Bills' nose tackle Kyle Williams (95) reacts after tackling a Detroit Lions running back during the first half of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

NFL Roundup...Page B5

Garrigus wins at Disney to keep PGA Tour card



Robert Garrigus pumps his fist as his putt falls in for birdie on the 17th green during the final round of the Children's Miracle Network Classic PGA golf tournament in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. Garrigus won the tournament by three strokes at 21 under par.

Associated Press

ANTONIO GONZALEZ

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP) — Robert Garrigus shot an 8-under 64 to win the Children's Miracle Network Classic on Sunday, allowing him

to keep his PGA Tour card and atoning for his colossal collapse earlier this year at Memphis.

Garrigus finished three shots clear of Roland Thatcher for his first tour victory.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," he said simply. Garrigus began the week 122nd in earnings and needed a solid finish to stay inside the top 125 — the cutoff for full PGA Tour status.

Thatcher shot a final-round 70 and jumped from 179th to 122nd to keep his playing privileges, blowing a four-stroke lead but keeping his job.

The victory was sweet redemption for Garrigus.

He made triple-bogey with a three-shot lead on the final hole at Memphis, allowing Lee Westwood to win his only event this year — a win that allowed him to earn the No. 1 ranking.

The anxiety was on dozens of others to keep their cards, but no more than at the top.

Garrigus began the final round five strokes behind

Thatcher — who led everyone by at least four — and put pressure on a player who needed an even stronger finish. Thatcher had to have at least a solo second place or he was heading to qualifying school next week.

That won't be necessary for either of them now.

Thatcher imploded with three bogeys on the back nine, including back-to-back at 16 and 17, when he badly misread putts. But he saved his card with a pressure-packed par putt from 5-feet on No. 18, barely pumping his fist while taking a huge sigh in relief.

"You'll never see a happier guy who just vomited away a tournament," Thatcher said.

Garrigus can relate.

In Memphis earlier this

year, he knocked his tee shot into the woods, then hit one off a tree and eventually settled for triple-bogey. Then he bogeyed the first playoff hole.

It was a similar scenario this time around.

Garrigus had a two-stroke lead before he teed off on 18, but the shot found a patch of rough far left. Fortunately, the ball kicked back right, rolled onto the fringe and eventually had an easier approach to save par.

Thatcher joined Mark Wilson (123) and Michael Connell (115) as the only players this week to jump inside the top 125 after starting the week outside of it. Meanwhile, Troy Merritt defeated Rickie Fowler and Aaron Baddeley in a playoff to win the \$1 million Kodak Challenge. □

In-Kyung Kim wins Lorena Ochoa Invitational



South Korea's In-Kyung Kim poses with the trophy after winning the Lorena Ochoa Invitational LPGA golf tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, Sunday Nov. 14, 2010. Kim won her third LPGA Tour title, closing with an 8-under 64 for a three-stroke stroke victory over Norway's Suzann Pettersen.

Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) — South Korea's In-Kyung Kim won the Lorena Ochoa Invitational on Sunday for her third LPGA Tour title, closing with an 8-under 64 for a three-stroke stroke victory over Suzann Pettersen.

Kim had a tournament-

record 19-under total on the Guadalajara Country Club course and earned \$220,000, which she said she's donating to charities including the Lorena Ochoa Foundation.

"I don't know how to really take this all in," Kim said. "But it's been a great week. I mean, on the golf course, I played very good golf all week. The putts pretty much kept dropping today."

Kim thanked her parents and people who supported her for making sacrifices to send her to the U.S. when she was 16.

"We weren't really rich, but it takes a lot of money to send me to the U.S. and go to school and all that. But there is one person who helped my parents, and if he didn't help my parents, or if he didn't help me coming to the U.S., I wouldn't really be here. Everyone needs help. I think that's why I'm all about that."

Pettersen shot a 68. The Norwegian star has six second-place finishes and 11 top-five finishes in 18 starts this season. She's winless since the 2009 Canadian Women's Open.

Pettersen had a double bogey

on the fourth hole.

"Hit one bad shot and that cost me two shots," she said. "And she made a birdie on the last. It kind of it felt like I gave her a gap. But other than that, I'm making some great putts coming down the stretch."

Karine Icher finished third at 15 under, holing out from the fairway on No. 18 for a 68.

Cristie Kerr (66) and U.S. Women's Open champion Paula Creamer (68) were equal fourth at 14 under, and Ai Miyazato (70) finished at 13 under. Ochoa, playing her first LPGA Tour event since retiring in April, shot a 74 on her home course, leaving her 19 strokes off the pace in 25th place. "For sure I wanted to play better, but I think it was important for the week for me to try to enjoy it as much as I could, and that's what I did," Ochoa said. "It was the first time to have my husband on the course, and I think we both had a good time. And I want to say 'Thank you,' to the players for being here and making this tournament so special."

Husband Andres Conesa, the CEO of Aeromexico, caddied for Ochoa. □

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NASCAR

Continued from Page B1

And when third-place driver Kevin Harvick was penalized for a loose lug nut on a late stop, nothing seemed to be in the way of Hamlin's first career NASCAR title.

Then cautions didn't fall as they should have, Edwards chased him down and Hamlin had to burn a ton of fuel trying to preserve the win. His Joe Gibbs Racing crew knew he was going to be at least a dozen laps short of making it to the finish on his last tank of gas, and crew chief Mike Ford called in the No. 11 Toyota for gas with 14 laps remaining.

Hamlin was in second place when he headed to pit road, with a nearly 60-point lead over Johnson. The pit stop dropped him to 19th, and he had to drive like a madman through the field trying to salvage the day.

His crew watched and waited for Johnson to make his fuel stop — Harvick's penalty had given him the opportunity to make an extra stop for gas — but Johnson never ducked onto pit road. Crew chief Chad Knaus coaxed his driver around the track, urging him to conserve every final drop.

It played out perfectly for everyone but Hamlin, whose rally still left him 12th. Johnson wound up fifth, Harvick was sixth and Hamlin's lead going into Homestead-Miami Speedway is a mere 15 points over Johnson. Harvick is a manageable 46 points out.

"Everybody made it on fuel, is that what you are telling me?" Hamlin asked

as he crossed the finish line. "I know. That was ugly," Ford replied. "That's something we've definitely got to work on."

"What do we got to work on? I don't understand," the frustrated driver replied.

"Fuel mileage," Ford responded. "That was awful."

It couldn't have gone any worse for Hamlin, who completely outperformed the competition but had little to show for it at the end.

"I hate that it boils down to the final race," Hamlin said. Not Johnson.

"We have one heck of a points race going to Miami and I'm pumped," Johnson said. "I am so happy to put pressure on the No. 11 team. We're ready to race for this thing. I hope the pressure of us being on his heels really works on his mind throughout the course of the week. One race, winner take all, and it's going to be a hell of a show."

A week after Knaus benched his pit crew in the middle of Hamlin's win at Texas, the champions were riding high after stealing one in Phoenix. They were clearly off their game — Johnson had won the last three Chase for the Sprint Cup championship races at Phoenix — and never contended Sunday.

But as Ford huddled with

car owner Joe Gibbs, and crew members packed up their equipment in silence, Knaus reveled in the final results just a few feet away. Johnson, meanwhile, lounged on a patio outside the press room. He didn't join Hamlin on the podium, as is routine, because he wasn't interested in what Hamlin had to say.

Hamlin's face said it all, though.

"He didn't go out of his way to say 'Hi' on his way out, so I can imagine he wasn't in a good mood," Johnson joked.

No, he wasn't, and it was a far cry from the celebration Johnson and Harvick were in after the gut-wrenching turn of events.

Harvick seemed sunk when, after leaving pit road in fifth after a caution with 90 laps to go, he was called back by NASCAR for a loose lug nut. It dropped him to 18th, but gave him the chance to make an extra stop for gas that Hamlin and Johnson didn't get.

Rallying to finish sixth was more than he could have hoped for after what seemed like a title-crushing penalty.

"We're just lucky," Harvick said. "I was pretty down, I thought, 'There it went.' We dodged one, for sure, and we've still got a chance next week. That's all we can ask for."



Carl Edwards celebrates his win in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, as he holds up part of the trophy, at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Lost in the commotion of the title race was Edwards' first win since the 2008 season finale. He ended that year as the popular pick to unseat Johnson, but endured a miserable 2009 and went almost two full years without a win.

His breakthrough came on a rare "perfect weekend" in NASCAR — Edwards won the pole, led every practice session and won the race. He also won the Nationwide Series event on Saturday.

"A win is very important

to us. It's a very big accomplishment for us," Edwards said. "I think it's something that we needed for our confidence. We needed it as a payoff for all the hard work the guys have put in at the shop, the engine department."

"But to go into the offseason knowing that we're getting better, looks like we have a legitimate shot to finish fourth in the points, to be in the All-Star Race next season, to have that energy going forward, all those things are good." □

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Boise State jumps TCU to No. 3 in AP Top 25



Boise State players celebrate with the Governor's Trophy after they beat Idaho, 52-14, in an NCAA college football game, Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, in Moscow, Idaho.

Associated Press

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer
NEW YORK – Boise State jumped back ahead of TCU in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday after the Horned Frogs played their closest game of the season.
No. 1 Oregon and No. 2 Auburn held their places, though the Ducks' narrow escape in a 15-13 victory Saturday night at California cost them 11 first-place votes and left them with 38.
Auburn, which erased an early 14-point deficit and

beat Georgia 49-31, picked up 10 first-place votes for a total of 12.
The big move came at Nos. 3 and 4.
TCU moved ahead of Boise State last week after a 47-7 victory against previously unbeaten Utah. But that win didn't look quite so impressive after the Utes were beaten 28-3 at Notre Dame on Saturday. The loss by Utah combined with TCU's 40-35 victory against San Diego State and Boise State's 52-14 win at Idaho on Friday night caused a

41-point swing.
The Horned Frogs led the Broncos by 25 points last week. This week they trail by 16.
Boise State picked up two more first-place votes this week to give it nine. TCU lost a first-place vote but still has one.
The rest of the top 10 was nearly unchanged with No. 5 LSU followed by Wisconsin, Stanford, Ohio State and Nebraska. Alabama jumped one spot to No. 10, while Michigan State slipped a spot to No. 11 after a week off.

Dropping out of the rankings were Central Florida, which lost its first game as a ranked team 31-21 to Southern Mississippi, and Florida, which lost 36-14 to South Carolina.
No. 20 Southern California and No. 24 Miami both moved back into the poll for the third time this season.
Oklahoma State was No. 12, followed by Arkansas, Virginia Tech and Missouri, while Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas A&M, Nevada and USC round out the top 20.
The final five began with Iowa, which slipped eight spots to No. 21 after losing to Northwestern, Mississippi State, which dropped five after losing at Alabama, and Arizona, which also dropped five places after a loss to USC.
Then came the Hurricanes and Utah, which tumbled 10 spots after its second consecutive loss. □

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NFL Roundup

Hail yeah! Jaguars beat Texans on final play

By The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Mike Thomas caught a 50-yard touchdown pass from David Garrard that Houston defensive back Glover Quin batted into his hands on the final play in regulation, giving the Jacksonville Jaguars a 31-24 win over the Texans on Sunday.

The game looked as if it was going to overtime, but Garrard heaved a pass toward the end zone with no time on the clock. Quin, who was burned all afternoon, tried to bat the ball to the ground. Instead, he knocked it right to the 5-foot-8 Thomas.

Thomas, who was trailing behind the pass and looking for a ricochet, caught it at the 1-yard line and then stepped across the goal line for the winning score.

The Jaguars (5-4) went into a frenzy and even drew a celebration penalty that couldn't be enforced. The Texans (4-5) trudged off the field in disbelief. It was Houston's third straight loss, dropping them from the top of the AFC South to the bottom. The Jaguars had a chance to take the lead in the closing minutes, but Josh Scobee yanked a 43-yard field goal left. The miss gave Houston the ball with a chance to win it, but the Texans needed to drive 67 yards in 1:34 with no timeouts. They moved the ball some and got close to field-goal range, but Joel Dreessen fumbled on a third-and-15 play, giving the Jaguars one more shot.

Bills 14, Lions 12

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Fred Jackson scored two touchdowns in leading Buffalo to its first victory of the season and sending Detroit to an NFL-record setting 25th consecutive road loss.

Jackson scored on a 1-yard plunge and a 16-yard catch in a sloppy game played in rain-soaked conditions between two perennial losers.

Buffalo (1-8) ended what had been its worst start to a season since going 0-11 in 1984. The Lions (2-7) broke



Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Mike Thomas (80) catches a 50-yard touchdown pass in front of Houston Texans cornerback Sherrick McManis (22) as time expired on the clock to give Jacksonville a 31-24 victory in an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

the road losing streak they set in dropping 24 in a row from 2001-2003.

The win wasn't assured until Detroit quarterback Shaun Hill overthrew Brandon Pettigrew at the back of the end zone on a failed 2-point conversion attempt with 14 seconds left. The Lions had pulled within two points on Hill's 20-yard TD pass to Calvin Johnson.

Jets 26, Browns 20, OT

CLEVELAND (AP)—Santonio Holmes scored on a 37-yard touchdown pass from Mark Sanchez with 16 seconds left in overtime, giving the Jets eighth straight regular-season road win.

It was the second consecutive overtime victory for the Jets (7-2), who won 23-20 in Detroit a week ago. New York overcame three missed field goals by Nick Folk, including a 47-yarder in OT.

On first down, Sanchez whipped a quick pass to Holmes, who after catching it, stepped inside of rookie safety T.J. Ward and sprinted into the end zone.

The Browns (3-6) had rallied to force OT on rookie quarterback Colt McCoy's 3-yard TD pass to Mohamed Massaquoi with 44 seconds left in regulation.

Cowboys 33, Giants 20

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Jon Kitna passed for 327 yards and three touchdowns and Dallas looked revitalized under interim coach Jason Garrett.

Kitna had TD passes of 13 yards to rookie Dez Bryant, 71 to halfback Felix Jones and 24 to Miles Austin as Dallas (2-7) snapped a five-game losing streak in its first game since Garrett replaced Wade Phillips.

Rookie cornerback Bryan

McCann scored on a team-record 101-yard interception return in a game highlighted by big plays and two third-quarter power failures that delayed the game for 11 minutes.

Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes for the Giants (6-3), who had a five-game winning streak snapped.

Colts 23, Bengals 17

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning didn't throw a TD pass for the second game this season, but Kelvin Hayden returned an interception for a touchdown and Javaris James ran for a TD to lead Indianapolis.

The banged-up Colts (6-3) didn't need Manning's arm to win this one. Instead, they scored 17 points off five turnovers and stopped the Bengals twice in the final 2:40.

The Bengals (2-7) have lost six straight and dropped to 0-7 against Manning.

Cincinnati created most of its own problems. Carson Palmer was picked off three times and nearly had two returned for touchdowns. Cedric Benson's first-half fumble led to another Indy touchdown.

Dolphins 29, Titans 17

MIAMI (AP)—Miami achieved its season-high point total, and it only took three quarterbacks, a flea-flicker and the revival of the wildcat. Defense helped, too. Randy Moss managed only one catch in his first game with the Titans, Miami takeaways led to two touchdowns.

After Miami quarterbacks Chad Pennington (shoulder) and Chad Henne (knee) departed with injuries, third-stringer Tyler Thigpen led an 85-yard drive in the fourth quarter to seal the bizarre victory.

The Dolphins (5-4) snapped a five-game home losing streak, including three losses this season.

Tennessee (5-4) lost coming off a bye for the first time in five years.

Kerry Collins started at quarterback for the Titans and struggled through the first half

before departing with a calf injury. Vince Young replaced him despite a sprained left ankle and threw for only 92 yards with two turnovers.

Bears 27, Vikings 13

CHICAGO (AP)—Jay Cutler threw for three touchdowns, Devin Hester had two big returns and Chicago moved into a tie with Green Bay for the NFC North lead.

It was a rough day for Brett Favre and the Vikings (3-6), who needed to win and beat the Packers next week to jump back into the division race.

Favre had 170 yards passing after getting a career-best 446 last week against Arizona, when Minnesota wiped out a late 14-point deficit and beat the Cardinals in overtime. This time, there were no late rallies.

Favre threw three interceptions—all in the second half—and two late in the game that wiped out whatever chance the Vikings had at a comeback. Chicago held Adrian Peterson to 51 yards rushing.

Cutler completed 22 of 35 passes for 237 yards with two interceptions, but his 19-yard TD pass to Kellen Davis made it 27-13 in the fourth quarter.

Buccaneers 31, Panthers 16

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Josh Freeman threw two touchdown passes and rookie LeGarrette Blount ran for a score to lead surprising Tampa Bay.

Freeman threw TD passes of 8 yards to Arrelious Benn and 20 yards to Kellen Winslow or the NFL's youngest team.

Blount scored on a 17-yard run that finished a long second-quarter drive as the Bucs (6-3) rebounded from a six-point loss to Atlanta that knocked them out of first place in the NFC South.

Cadillac Williams put the game out of reach with a 45-yard TD burst on third-and-10 late in the fourth quarter.

Rookie Jimmy Clausen made his fourth start at quarterback for injury-riddled Carolina (1-8), which got 100 yards rushing from fourth-string running back Mike Goodson (notes). □



New York Rangers' Marion Gaborik, left, of the Czech Republic, scores past Edmonton Oilers goalie Nikolai Khabibulin, of Russia, during an NHL hockey game on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press

Rangers rout Oilers 8-2

Gaborik scores 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Marian Gaborik scored his first three goals of the season as the New York Rangers beat the Edmonton Oilers 8-2 on Sunday to spoil the return of former coach Tom Renney.

NHL Roundup The game turned ugly with 8:42 left after a fight between New York's Sean Avery and Edmonton's Ladislav Smid. As Avery was being ushered toward the tunnel next to the benches, Oilers defenseman Ryan Whitney yelled at him. Theo Peckham joined the fray and was cut off by Rangers forward Brian Boyle.

Those two fought after Peckham was blocked from going into the tunnel, and New York's Brandon Prust took on Zack Stortini.

Gaborik, playing in his fifth game, added an assist as the Rangers won their second straight at home and sent the Oilers to their fourth consecutive loss (0-3-1)

and sixth in seven games (1-5-1).

Alex Frolov scored twice, and Boyle, Artem Anisimov and Ruslan Fedotenko added goals for New York. Ryan Jones and Shawn Horcoff scored for Edmonton. Renney, in his first season as the Oilers' coach, was back at Madison Square Garden for the first time since being fired by the Rangers in February 2009.

Capitals 6, Thrashers 4

At Washington, John Erskine scored the tiebreaking goal with 6:49 remaining to help Washington to its sixth straight home victory.

Trailing a rush into the Thrashers' zone, Erskine used a slap shot from the left point to convert a drop pass from David Steckel, beating Ondrej Pavelec to cap a sloppy, goal-filled game.

Alex Ovechkin, Mike Green and Steckel had a

goal and an assist each for the Capitals. Alexander Semin and Matt Hendricks also scored for Washington. Bryan Little led Atlanta with two goals. Andrew Ladd had a goal and an assist, and Rich Peverley also scored for the Thrashers.

Wild 4, Lightning 1

At Tampa, Cal Clutterbuck and Antti Miettinen scored on the power play during a three-goal first period, and Niklas Backstrom made 37 saves for Minnesota.

John Madden and Eric Nystrom also scored, and Martin Havlat had three assists, giving him 13 assists and 22 points in 18 games against Tampa Bay. Martin St. Louis scored for the Lightning, who have lost three in a row and six of seven. Steven Stamkos had an assist, but saw his four-game goal streak end. Stamkos, who has 15 goals and 13 points, has a point in 15 of 17 games this season. □



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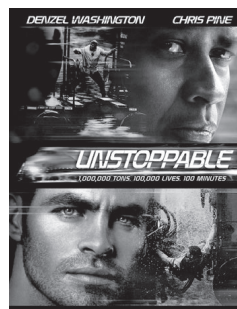
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Soderling beats Monfils in Paris Masters final



Robin Soderling of Sweden holds his trophy after defeating Gael Monfils of France in the final match of the Paris Tennis Masters tournament, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

TRUNG LATIEULE

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Robin Soderling of Sweden won his first Masters 1000 title Sunday by beating Gael Monfils of France 6-1, 7-6 (1) in the Paris Masters final.

The fourth-seeded Swede hit a forehand volley on match point,

then fell to the ground on his back to celebrate the most prestigious of his six career titles.

"I always feel so good here in Paris," the two-time French Open runner-up said. "I now have two favorite tournaments, it's here and Roland Garros. I hope I can come back many times and play well."

Soderling became the first Swede to win a Masters 1000 tournament since Thomas Enqvist in 2000 at Cincinnati. He will leapfrog Andy Murray of Britain to rise to a career-high No. 4 in the rankings.

As usual, Soderling relied heavily on his powerful first serve. He hit nine aces and never faced a break point. Soderling played aggressively in the first set to put the 12th-seeded Monfils under pressure, winning eight of 10 net points and hitting 12 winners to only six for Monfils. Soderling broke in the fourth game when Monfils sent a forehand volley wide. He then fired a backhand crosscourt passer to again break Monfils and increase his lead to 5-1. The Swede took the first set when a backhand pass from Monfils sailed long.

"I was extremely nervous before this match," Soderling said. "I didn't sleep much at all (last) night. I really wanted to do well today and I'm happy with the way I started the match."

Monfils, who upset Roger Federer

in the semifinals on Saturday, raised his game in the second set, hitting six aces.

In the tiebreaker, Soderling won every point on his serve while Monfils dropped three, including match point.

Soderling jumped to a 3-0 lead and hit a forehand winner on the line followed by an ace for a 5-1 advantage.

"Since the beginning of the tournament I've been really using up my reserves physically and mentally," said Monfils, who also beat Andy Murray and Fernando Verdasco in earlier rounds. "It's the whole week that made me tired. Today I wasn't able to find the extra stamina that I would have needed to be more competitive. ... It's the first time I've been beating three top-10 players in the same tournament."

In the doubles final, Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Max Mirnyi of Belarus won their eighth title by defeating the unseeded pair of Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Andy Ram of Israel 7-5, 7-5. □




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Pacquiao may not need Mayweather anymore



Manny Pacquiao wears the championship belt after winning the WBC light middleweight title boxing match against Antonio Margarito Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Manny Pacquiao is more concerned with the set list for his upcoming concert than he is with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

The fight every boxing fan wants to see may never happen, but Pacquiao has a firm date to sing at Lake Tahoe before heading home and taking up his more formal duties as a congressman in the Philippines.

All was well early Sunday after Pacquiao cemented his claim as boxing's best by giving Antonio Margarito

such a brutal beating that he went to the hospital. About the only problem was that Pacquiao couldn't sign autographs for adoring fans because he had trouble holding a pen.

"My hands are swollen and they really hurt," Pacquiao said.

Small wonder, considering Pacquiao had just spent 12 rounds bouncing those hands off of Margarito's head. He hit Margarito from almost every angle and with stunning accuracy, closing both his eyes and bloodying his face while dominating every round of their 150-pound showdown.

Margarito remained in the hospital on Sunday and promoter Bob Arum said the boxer has a broken right eye socket and will have surgery Tuesday in Texas.

It was a virtuoso performance, though not terribly surprising since boxing fans have come to expect that from the little superstar. Size never mattered on a night when speed ruled and the crowd of 41,734 at Cowboys Stadium roared at every combination.

Pacquiao's mother got so caught up in the excitement that she briefly fainted as the fight ended. Most everyone else stayed upright, watching in delight as Pacquiao finished off a night's work by kneeling down in a neutral corner and saying a prayer of thanks.

The lopsided win gave Pacquiao his eighth title in as many weight classes in a remarkable career that began with him fighting at 107 pounds as a teenager in the Philippines. He was in charge the entire way, battering Margarito so badly that Pacquiao was pleading with the referee to stop the fight in the 11th round so his opponent wouldn't have to take any more punishment.

"I told the referee, 'Look at his eyes, look at his cuts,'" Pacquiao said. "I did not want to damage him permanently. That's not what boxing is about."

No sooner had the judges handed in their tallies, though, than Pacquiao was answering questions about the one fighter he has yet to beat. Mayweather may be the only credible opponent left for Pacquiao, though promoter Bob Arum talked after the fight about a possible bout with Shane Mosley or a third

fight against Juan Manuel Marquez.

But the congressman made it clear he was tired of the politics of boxing when it comes to the one fight that matters most.

"I don't want to talk about Floyd Mayweather," Pacquiao said. "If there's a decision I'll take it to Bob Arum."

If Mayweather spent \$65 to watch the pay-per-view he may be even more reluctant to fight Pacquiao than before. He also has legal problems stemming from an altercation with the mother of his children that could interfere with a possible fight in the spring, but Arum believes that if Mayweather really wants to fight then the bout could be made.

Margarito was supposed to be a rugged test for Pacquiao, if only because he was so much bigger. But it was clear from the opening round that Pacquiao would have no trouble landing punches up the middle even though he gave away 17 pounds and nearly 5 inches in height.

Margarito was plenty game, advancing forward throughout the fight while trying to land big punches to the head. But he paid a terrible price as Pacquiao carved up his face and had him fighting bloodied and nearly blind in the late rounds.

"There was no way I was going to quit," he said. "I'm a Mexican, we fight until the end."

That end finally came when the bell sounded to mercifully end the 12th round, though the outcome was never in doubt since the middle rounds. Pacquiao seemed to let up on Margarito in the final round, giving up

a possible knockout to take compassion on his opponent.

Back home, where even crime stops when Pacquiao fights, the end touched off celebrations across the country. President Benigno Aquino III, who is attending the APEC summit in Japan, rushed back to his hotel room to catch the bout and sent his congratulations.

Boxing has never seen anything like Pacquiao, whose string of recent performances has reinvigorated the sport. His latest win earned him at least \$15 million, some of which he spent to charter a 757 to Dallas to bring in some 200 members of his rapidly growing entourage. The plane was set to take everyone home Sunday, then Pacquiao was flying to Lake Tahoe for a Tuesday concert before preparing to return to the Philippines. Once home, he'll get back to more mundane concerns, like making sure schools in his congressional district are functioning and getting funding for a new hospital that is badly needed.

Mayweather may be in his future, but there may be a point where Pacquiao doesn't need Mayweather anymore. He certainly didn't need him Saturday night to draw a huge crowd to Cowboys Stadium, where he now has one more win this year than the Cowboys themselves.

The crowd watched as Pacquiao put on the kind of attacking performance that Mayweather seldom gives in the ring.

"My ultimate concern as a fighter is I want the people to be happy," Pacquiao said. Consider that mission accomplished. For one night, at least, they were happy as could be. □



Endangered Madagascar Turtles Still Caught Despite Ban

Endangered turtles are still caught and killed by the thousands in Madagascar despite a ban on the practice - up to 16,000 a year in just a single province of the island nation, according to a new study. Researchers used some interesting tactics to arrive at the 16,000-turtle figure, a number they say is conservative. They enlisted the help of the villagers actually engaged in the harvests, allowing the researchers to assemble what they are calling the first direct assessment of the practice. Annette Broderick, from the Centre for Ecology and Conservation at the University of Exeter in England, said that despite the bans on catching the endangered turtles, it was clear small-scale fishing continued. She and her team set out to find out just how much of it was still going on. "Because turtles are an endangered species, it's important for us to know what's going on in the region so we can work with the local community to find a sustainable way forward," Broderick said. Since it has traditionally been



Marine biologists are keeping a close eye on the threatened and endangered sea turtles of Dry Tortugas National Park, 70 miles (113 kilometers) west of Key West, Fla. But to follow the turtles, scientists first have to tag them with state-of-the-art monitoring electronics. Wrestling a 400-pound (181-kg) sea turtle, such as Bond pictured above, out of the ocean is not for your average lab rat.

very difficult to get data on the small-scale fishing that goes on in remote areas of Madagascar, Broderick, along with colleagues from Blue Ventures Conservation, called on the villagers themselves to

track how many turtles they took. The team had a local representative from each of 12 coastal fishing villages document and photograph every turtle that was caught

over the course of a year.

"Catching turtles for their meat is an important part of Malagasy culture for many coastal people," said Blue Ventures Conservation's Frances Humber, "but the

villagers also understand the importance of ensuring the future of this resource."

The researchers found that in the 12 villages studied, local representatives documented 699 turtles caught, most of them green turtles.

Combining that data with data from previous studies in the region produced a conservative estimate of an annual turtle catch in a southwestern province of Madagascar of between 10,000 and 16,000 turtles.

Humber said the figures from the study are a cause for concern, but insisted Madagascar should not be singled out, since the situation is likely similar throughout developing countries with tropical coastal communities.

"Until we get more details, it's difficult to draw conclusions about what is sustainable and how we can find solutions," Humber said. "Clearly, making turtle fishing illegal hasn't worked, so we need to work with communities to promote sustainable practices."

The research will be detailed in a future issue of the journal *Animal Conservation*. □

Rare Cold Water Coral Discovered in Northern Africa

A rare cold water coral reef has been discovered off the coast of Mauritania in Northern Africa, the first time such a reef has been found this far south, according to a new report.

In the middle of an enormous rock formation in an undersea canyon, scientists have found a thriving coral ecosystem in deep cold water. This coral wall on the continental shelf off the coast of Mauritania measures about 164 to 197 feet (50 to 60 meters) high and is 118 miles (190 kilometers) long. Cold water coral ecosystems were known to form much further north, around Scandinavia and in the Irish Sea, but this is the furthest south they have been found.

Researchers lowered a robot to the seafloor, 2,000 feet (615 m) underwater. There they discovered a flourishing coral ecosystem. The researchers spotted spectacular animals including a heavily

calcified Lophelia coral with orange-red polyps, and gorgonias coral, a common reef building coral in the tropics. Giant clams were hanging on the coral, similar to Norwegian reefs, according to the expedition report.

Unlike tropical corals, cold water corals live at 55 degrees Fahrenheit (13 degrees Celsius) in the dark and nutrient-rich deep sea region below 650 feet (200 m). The study team knew of a loose cold water coral reef which extends to southern regions, said Andre Freiwald, a team member from University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Until now, however, scientists had only found fossil coral reef structures on the seafloor off the coast of Gibraltar and Morocco.

Near Mauritania the scientists found the powerful carrier crab *Paromola* and the giant deep sea oyster *Neopycnodonte*, also never before observed so far

south. These giant oysters form thick populations and can be described as Methuselahs among animals, with some individuals living for over 500 years. The surprising discovery of cold water coral ecosystems may be due to offshore winds pushing the surface waters from the Mauritanian cliffs out into the open ocean. This would create a flow of cold and nutrient-rich water to the coral ecosystems, Freiwald said.

The Maria S. Merian will stop at and chart further parts of the coral system in the canyon of the continental shelf off the coast of Mauritania. The current research voyage ends Nov. 20.

Freiwald expects the next dives on this expedition to provide information as to whether the newly discovered ecosystem represents a single structure or whether a spatially extended living reef province exists in the southern waters. □

'Megamind' continues box office reign with \$30M



FILE - In this film publicity file image released by Paramount and DreamWorks Animation, Megamind, voiced by Will Ferrell, is shown in a scene from the animated feature 'Megamind.' Will Ferrell's dastardly schemes continue to succeed, with the animated 'Megamind' staying at the top of the box office. The DreamWorks Animation family comedy, featuring Ferrell as the voice of a super villain, made just over \$30 million in its second week in theaters, according to Sunday studio estimates. It's now made nearly \$90 million total.

(AP Photo/DreamWorks Animation, Paramount Pictures, File)

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE,**
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Will Ferrell's dastardly schemes continue to succeed, with the animated "Megamind" staying at the top of the box office.

The DreamWorks Animation 3-D comedy, featuring Ferrell as the voice of a super villain, made just over \$30 million in its second week in theaters, according to Sunday studio estimates. It's now made nearly \$90 million total. "Megamind" also features the voices of Brad Pitt, Tina Fey and Jonah Hill.

Opening in second place is the 20th Century Fox action thriller "Unstoppable," starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pine as railroad workers trying to stop a

massive runaway train. It made \$23.5 million. The movie is based on a 2001 Ohio incident in which a train carrying hazardous cargo traveled 66 miles without a crew.

Last week's No. 2 film, "Due Date," fell to the third spot with \$15.5 million. The Warner Bros. comedy features Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis as opposites stuck together on a cross-country road trip. It's now made \$59 million in two weeks.

Among the weekend's other new releases, "Skyline" opened in fourth place with \$11.7 million. The Universal Pictures sci-fi thriller depicts aliens invading and destroying Los Angeles. And "Morning Glory," a Paramount comedy set in a network morning show

starring Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford and Diane Keaton, opened at No. 5 with about \$9.6 million.

Anne Globe, head of worldwide marketing for DreamWorks Animation, said positive word of mouth helped "Megamind" remain on top.

"It's exciting because audiences are clearly responding very well to the movie," said Globe. "This was a decided No. 1 again. We were only down 35 percent, which is a pretty terrific hold for the movie."

But "Megamind" is the rare family movie in theaters these days, which also helps, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. Next week, the feverishly anticipated first half of the "Harry Potter" finale, "Harry Potter

and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," debuts. "Up until 'Megamind' the marketplace was virtually devoid of any family films," Dergarabedian said. "The R-rated films were dominating: You had 'Paranormal Activity 2,' 'Saw 3-D,' 'Jackass 3D.' Then there was a plethora of adult-oriented dramas: 'Secretariat,' 'The Social Network,' 'Hereafter,' all those films. Then there were movies for older audiences like 'Red.'" The fact that "Megamind" is in 3-D is also a draw to younger audiences, he said: "Kids love 3-D. Kids love the gimmicky thing."

"Unstoppable," the fifth film Washington has made with director Tony Scott, debuted

slightly better than the \$21.4 million average opening of their collaborations. Previously, they'd worked on "Crimson Tide," "Man on Fire," "Deja Vu" and "The Taking of Pelham 123."

The movie had surprisingly good reviews for an action picture — 86 percent positive on Rotten Tomatoes — and the audience was evenly divided between men and women, said Bert Livingston, general sales manager for 20th Century Fox. "It doesn't happen very often, but when you get reviews like that and people like the movie so much, and they come out and tell their friends, it's the first weekend but it's just a beginning," Livingston said. □



The band Sugarland with Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush accept the Vocal Duo of the Year Award at the 44th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

Sugarland members settle founder's \$14M lawsuit

ATLANTA — The two members of the country band Sugarland have settled a lawsuit with the group's founding member, who had claimed she was owed more than \$14 million.

U.S. District Judge Timothy Batten Sr. signed an order this week saying the parties notified him of the deal and gave each side until Dec. 13 to finalize the settlement documents. The details of the settlement are not listed in court records. The lawsuit was filed in 2008 by Kristen Hall, who founded the band in 2002. She said Jennifer Nettles and bandmate Kristian Bush should have given her a third of the group's profits, even after she left in 2005 to pursue a solo career. A trial had been scheduled to begin Monday in the case. □

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Taxes, inflation data to dominate week

By Rodrigo Campos

NEW YORK – Without a boost from Washington policymakers or data showing budding strength in the economy, Wall Street's rally may be running out of fuel as the S&P 500 eases off its 2010 high.

A data-heavy week could give investors hard evidence to justify a rally that lifted the S&P 500 16.8 percent from its August 31 close to the 2010 closing high hit November 5. But the index has been unable to move above 1,228, a

key resistance level, and its chart is brewing a double-top formation, a very bearish signal.

"We're susceptible to a pullback if we don't get any clarity on fiscal policy and if any of this economic data disappoints next week," said John Lynch, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I would think you're going to see some, not all, smart money pull their investment (out of stocks) the closer we get to

1,228. These guys recognize we still have above 9 percent unemployment, sovereign credit risks, a consumer deleveraging and no clarity as to what businesses should do with their cash."

Last week, the Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) and the Standard & Poor's 500 index (.SPX) each fell 2.2 percent. The Nasdaq Composite index (.IXIC) lost 2.4 percent.

The S&P 500 brushed the 61.8 percent retracement of its slide from the historic highs in 2007



A trader sits at his stock terminal on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, November 9, 2010.

Greenspan: High deficits could spark bond crisis



Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve, testifies before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington April 7, 2010.

WASHINGTON – The United States must move to rein in its massive budget deficits or it faces the risk of a bond market crisis, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said on Sunday.

"We've got to resolve this issue before it gets forced upon us," Greenspan said of the ballooning U.S. debt levels.

He spoke as a panel, chaired by former White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles and former Senator Alan Simpson, is due to deliver a report on debt and deficits by December

1. A draft report made public last week offered a series of politically tough tax and spending choices that would seek to reduce the debt by \$4 trillion by 2020.

The suggestions received a lukewarm reception from some politicians and outright condemnation by others, including House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who pronounced the ideas "simply unacceptable."

Greenspan, who spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press,"

said he believed "something equivalent" to what Bowles and Simpson recommended would eventually be approved by Congress.

"The only question is, is it before or after a bond market crisis? Because there's no alternative," he said.

He said the deficit, which hit \$1.3 trillion this year, may begin to frighten the bond market, which could undermine the recovery and push the economy back into recession.

"The big, serious problem is whether or not the outlook for the longer-term deficit spooks the bond market to a point where long-term interest and mortgage rates move up very sharply," said Greenspan. "If that happens, that will cause the double dip."

Greenspan caused a stir last week when he said in a Financial Times column that Washington was pursuing a policy of weakening the dollar, prompting Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to insist that the United States would never deliberately weaken its currency. □

to the low in March 2009.

This was the second time the index backed away from the 1,228 area and its chart could be drawing a bearish "double top" formation. The last retreat from that level, in April, was the start of a correction that took the S&P to its 2010 low in July.

The S&P 500 dipped on Friday below its 20-day moving average for the first time since September 1, but managed to close above it in a sign that that level, currently just above 1,194, could provide strong technical support.

LET'S TALK ABOUT TAXES

Investors will closely watch a meeting on Thursday between U.S. President Barack Obama and congressional leaders to discuss policy, including tax cuts.

Republicans will take control of the House of Representatives starting in January following their strong gains in the November 2 elections. They have vowed to force a full extension of all tax cuts enacted during the administration of former President George W. Bush. Otherwise, the tax cuts expire at the end of 2010.

Most of Obama's Democrats favor extending tax cuts

only for the first \$200,000 of income of individuals and \$250,000 for families.

"Bush tax cuts are very important for the market," said Michael Yoshikami, president and chief investment strategist at YCMNET Advisors in Walnut Creek, California.

"If they're not renewed, that could cost 0.75 percentage point per year in GDP (growth). I don't think any other proposal would have that kind of significant impact. If dividend taxes were raised, that would be a still important but more minor issue," he said.

Many Democrats argue that renewing all the tax cuts would swell the record U.S. budget deficit and have little, if any, impact on cutting the high unemployment rate.

DATA BACK ON THE TABLE

Following a week in which the few macroeconomic indicators barely influenced stocks, a slew of data ranging from manufacturing to leading indicators to retail sales, and, perhaps most importantly, inflation, will return investors' attention to market fundamentals.

Producer prices are expected to have risen 0.8 percent month-over-month in October. □



According to a new survey:

Young children in Britain are starting nursery school unable to speak and listen properly because of continuous noise and poor conversation at home

Noisy homes leave UK children 'unable to listen'

LONDON (AFP) – Young children in Britain are starting nursery school unable to speak and listen properly because of continuous noise and poor conversation at home, according to a new survey. Education watchdog Ofsted said constantly switched on televisions, noisy brothers and sisters and raised voices are increasingly hampering children's language skills. The study, on how the best schools teach children to read, says some schools report spending days or weeks educating parents and improving children's social skills.



as "me want ..." and many of the youngsters had "been no further from home than the nearest shopping centre".

To rectify the situation, nurseries focus on increasing vocabulary and using sentences and make sure days are structured "to compensate for the chaotic home lives that too many of the children were experiencing".

Nationally, official statistics show one in five 11-year-olds leave primary school without reaching the standard expect of their age group for reading and writing.

In some cases, children arrive at nursery still in nappies and with dummies in their mouths.

Ofsted said: "The majority of the schools visited that had nursery classes commented that, increasingly, children joined unprepared for learning and with poor listening and speaking skills.

"Lack of preparation extended to children arriving who had not been toilet-trained and children with dummies in their mouths.

"In these cases, the onus rested with parents or

carers but staff still had to invest time in the early days or weeks in educating parents, reducing children's dependency and improving their socialising skills."

The study adds: "The schools attributed weak listening skills not only to poor conversation in the home but, very often, also to continuous background noise, such as constant television, the noise of siblings and raised voices, which are bound to dull sensitivity to the nuances of sounds."

The report adds that in some cases, children's speech was limited to phrases such

Evidence shows that the critical time for children to become good readers and writers is between the ages of three and seven, the watchdog said, and the best schools are consistent in giving pupils opportunities to talk and listen to build their vocabulary.

Ofsted chief inspector Christine Gilbert said: "Despite some major initiatives in recent years to raise standards in reading and writing, the levels achieved by many children at the end of primary school fall stubbornly short of what is achievable." □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!

US-Japan alliance is ripe for renewal

By Patrick M. Cronin,
Washington – The last time President Obama met his counterpart in Japan, their pledge to revitalize the alliance fell like the proverbial tree in a lonesome forest. That was one year ago. This time, despite being overshadowed by multilateral economic summitry, the American president and the Japanese prime minister are poised for progress when they meet this weekend. After a period of drift, the US-Japan alliance is ripe for renewal.

Political changesTwo events brought this period of drift in the alliance to an end. The first was the Democratic Party of Japan's maturation. While the DPJ has a long way to go toward transitioning from an opposition to a governing party, the intraparty election two months ago provided a turning point. By winning a convincing victory over Ichiro Ozawa (the man who created the party), Naoto Kan solidified his authority. IN PICTURES: Obama's Asia trip

In addition, the election accelerated the ascendance of a younger generation of politicians, including but by no means limited to foreign minister Seiji Maehara, who take a pragmatic stance on security issues, strongly support the alliance, and are determined for Japan to make a greater contribution in the world. The election dispelled much of the political uncertainty overhanging Tokyo and refashioned the DPJ into a more effective US partner. The second event was a maritime confrontation between Japan and China. On September 7, as video footage demonstrates, a Chinese fishing trawler

rammed two Japanese Coast Guard vessels patrolling near the Senkakus – an island group administered by Tokyo but also claimed by Beijing. When Japan took the trawler captain into custody, China retaliated by cutting off exports of rare-earth elements, minerals vital to Japan's high-tech industry. For the DPJ as well as the Japanese public, this crisis underscored the value of the alliance. Unlike a year ago, the alliance is now ready to move from rhetoric to action. Post-summit efforts to revitalize the alliance should initially focus on the two most pressing issues – China and the economy.

pagebreak

Cooperation to counter ChinaWith increasing assertivenessaccompanying China's continued ascendance, Washington and Tokyo must do more to prepare for the possibility of a non-peaceful rise. This means improving the interoperability of the US military and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. In particular, the United States and Japan should boost the interoperability of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations. Both defense establishments should also begin preparing to counter China's deployment of ballistic missiles capable of targeting foreign ships and bases in the Western Pacific. This will require hardening US military facilities in Japan, enhancing missile defenses, and exploring new basing options. Further, Japan should strengthen capabilities that exploit weaknesses in China's military strategy. Tokyo should purchase more diesel attack submarines, invest in naval mines, and expeditiously

choose a replacement for its aging F-4EJ fighter. Hedging against China's uncertain trajectory will require the United States and Japan to work more closely with other countries in the region. While eschewing a "concert of democracies," which would appear a thinly veiled attempt to contain China, the two allies should promote greater trilateral cooperation among Asian democracies and other likeminded states. Renewal depends on economic collaborationPresident Obama and Prime Minister Kan have no higher domestic priority than restoring economic growth. Although traditionally downplayed in favor of hard security issues, economic collaboration must become an integral part of alliance renewal.

The United States and Japan remain world leaders in clean energy and already have a program of cooperation under the moniker of a "green alliance." Existing initiatives such as "smart grid" cooperation and conservation can be expanded and new ones launched, such as cooperation on safer ways to process the world's growing stockpile of radioactive nuclear waste. In the health-care field, the United States and Japan enjoy several unique advantages. They not only possess world-class technology, but also have growing populations of elderly citizens with the financial resources to afford the best health care possible. If they work together, the United States and Japan can effectively leverage their large and sophisticated health-care markets to develop products to export

to a graying world. Trade remains a key avenue for achieving sustained economic growth. The United States and Japan should cooperate to expand export opportunities in emerging markets. With respect to China, they should ratchet up pressure for a revaluation of the renminbi by rallying other members of the Group of 20. Despite the likely absence of a joint security declaration (something that was sought to highlight the 50th anniversary of the alliance), this weekend's meeting between Obama and Kan bears watching. It marks the inflection point between a period of drift and alliance renewal. □



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Fundacion Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976

Womens Defecultice Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

AOL cracks open door to new Project Phoenix e-mail

By JESSICA MINTZ,
AP Technology Writer

You've still got mail — but AOL is redesigning it from the ground up to be faster and easier to use.

AOL Inc. is opening the doors to its new Web-based e-mail program, code-named Project Phoenix, for a limited number of users. Starting next year, anyone will be able to sign up for access to a beta test site. The Project Phoenix inbox page was designed to make it easier to fire off a quick e-mail, text or instant message with just a few clicks on a “quick bar” at the top of the page. People can also send short replies right from the inbox page, without having to click on a message first. The new design displays thumbnails of recent photo attachments at a glance, and lets people toggle between several open e-mails at a time.

When someone is reading an e-mail with pictures attached, the photos will also show up as thumbnails next to the message. Addresses in the body of the e-mail will trigger the system to display a map from AOL's Mapquest on the right-hand side, with the option to click for directions.

Like Yahoo and other competitors, AOL is trying to become the one-stop shop for reading messages from other providers. Project Phoenix lets people link up their e-mail accounts on services from Microsoft Corp., Yahoo Inc. and Google Inc. In future versions, AOL plans to pull in Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn messages, too.

The early beta felt sluggish when a reporter tried it out recently, but AOL said its tests show that the Phoenix inbox page loads about twice as fast as Google's Gmail inbox.

Markedly absent from the new design: advertising. Fletcher Jones, the project lead for Phoenix, said AOL is working on other ways to make money from the free e-mail service because the old model — at least one towering, animated ad dominating the right-hand side of the screen — isn't very user-friendly. Jones would not say exactly what AOL's plan is, but one tactic is placing links to top AOL stories inside the inbox. AOL's content sites are more ad-heavy.

“We're a different company than we were a year ago,” Jones said in an interview.

“The prior administration had priorities on revenue

versus audience growth. Our priorities are on audience growth.”

About two weeks ago, the New York-based company overhauled the main AOL.com home page with more white space, hipper logo art, bolder photos and icons and a stronger focus on content from its network of websites and blogs. AOL Mail, which accounts for about 45 percent of AOL's total page views, is an important way to help users find all this new content. After all, Jones said, no matter what else is going on, people check their e-mail every day.

But AOL is juggling the need to attract new traffic with the fact that many of its users have been around since the days of dial-up Internet access. The company plans to give existing customers the option to use the Project Phoenix system, and is providing live chat and other 24-hour customer service to support the transition. AOL doesn't have a firm plan for switching everyone over to the new design.

As people are invited into the Project Phoenix beta, they'll also have a chance to sign up for a new AOL e-mail address — a gift for folks who have come to regret their early aol.com screen name choices. □

Black colleges look to increase online ed presence

By KATHY MATHESON,
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When Michael Hill needed a doctoral program with the flexibility to let him continue working full-time as a Lincoln University administrator, he chose an online degree from another institution.

With such firsthand experience, Hill is now trying to start an online program at Lincoln. It's one of many historically black colleges and universities that has yet to enter a booming cybereducation market that could be particularly lucrative for black colleges.

Blacks comprised about 12 percent of total enrollment in

higher education in 2007 but were 21 percent of students at for-profit institutions — many of which are online, according to an American Council on Education report released this year.

Tom Joyner, a syndicated radio host with a largely black audience, also sees the market's potential. The longtime historical black college and university booster and philanthropist has invested about \$7 million to start HBCUsOnline.com, an educational services venture run by his son.

“My father noticed very early on that a lot of the students doing the online education

boom were members of his listening audience,” said Tom Joyner Jr. “Those listeners could be better served by HBCUs.”

While black colleges only enroll about 11 percent of all black students, their traditions and legacies still resonate in the African-American community.

It makes sense that those schools would want to recapture students from for-profits like the University of Phoenix, said Richard Garrett, managing director of the consulting firm Eduventures. “This is, to us, an expected and logical trend,” Garrett said. “It's ambitious, the

timing is right. There's a lot of opportunity there.”

The Sloan Consortium for online education estimates about one-third of the country's 4,500 universities offer online degrees. But only about 10 percent of the nation's 105 historically black colleges do, according to the White House Initiative on historical black institutions. (Larger percentages offer online courses without degrees.)

“In order to keep pace and add institutional versatility, we should be in this space,” said John Wilson Jr., executive director of the White House Initiative.

Part of the problem is money:

Black colleges generally have small endowments and are largely tuition-dependent. Many don't have the technological infrastructure to support online education, said Marybeth Gasman, an HBCU expert at the University of Pennsylvania.

The schools also have struggled with low retention and graduation rates, partly because of students' financial backgrounds.

Some officials worry that online student dropouts could further drag down those rates, possibly affecting accreditation, said Ezell Brown, CEO of Education Online Services, another company working to put black colleges online.

Also at issue is whether the nurturing campus environment often touted by black colleges can be replicated in cyberspace. To be successful online, the schools must offer strong student advising and a cultural component that somehow virtually conveys the campus ethos, Gasman said.

Dallas-based HBCUsOnline.com, which launched in September, aims to be a one-stop shop for browsing online programs at black schools. The site promises students personal guidance “from registration to graduation.” □

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Presidente Daniel Ortega:

Nicaragua contempla retirarse de la OEA

MANGAUA (AP) - El presidente Daniel Ortega, dijo el sábado que contempla retirarse de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) porque ha perdido toda "credibilidad" en el organismo, a raíz de una resolución que conminó a su país a retirar sus fuerzas de territorio que Costa Rica considera como suyo.

"Nosotros estamos considerando retirarnos de la OEA", dijo Ortega. "Estábamos ahí por inercia porque la OEA debió desaparecer hace rato". Costa Rica había denunciado en OEA una presunta invasión de tropas nicaragüenses a Isla Calero, que considera parte de su territorio, y alegó que trabajos de dragado que realiza Nicaragua en el fronterizo río San Juan provocaban daños ambientales en su lado. Durante el debate en la OEA,

donde el tema estuvo en agenda por 10 días, ambas naciones alegaron que ese territorio les pertenece. El viernes, al cierre de la sesión hubo que recurrir a una votación, algo inusual en el organismo donde las decisiones se toman por consenso. Sólo dos países votaron en contra del documento: Venezuela y Nicaragua.

"Es la primera vez en muchos años que el Consejo Permanente de la OEA somete un asunto a votación y sólo dos países votaron contra la posición de Costa Rica", destacó un comunicado de la presidencia costarricense. No obstante, la medida no es de acatamiento obligatorio para Nicaragua, que de antemano había señalado que no retirará a sus tropas de la zona.

Ortega calificó de "manipulada, mañosa, mentirosa y una conspiración"



Varias personas agitan banderas nicaragüenses durante un recorrido por el Río San Juan, cerca de la frontera con Costa Rica, el sábado 13 de noviembre del 2010. (AP Foto/Esteban Félix)

la votación realizada el viernes en el Consejo Permanente de la OEA. Lamentó también que Colombia, México, Panamá, Honduras y Guatemala, "países infestados por el narcotráfico, hicieron

causa común" a favor de la resolución. "No se tomaron en cuenta los procedimientos correspondientes... La reunión mató la posibilidad de un diálogo al incluir elementos de acondicionamiento", aseguró.

Sobre la denuncia de Costa Rica ante la OEA por supuesta invasión de su territorio, dijo que ésta surgió "precisamente cuando el ejército de Nicaragua combatía el narcotráfico" en la zona fronteriza. □

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